

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the final Office Action mailed June 3, 2003 (Paper No. 9), submitted concurrently with a Petition for an Extension of Time to within the first extended month and a Request For Continued Examination (RCE). Reexamination and reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 14 and 16 were amended, claims 2, 6-8 and 17-19 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 20-21 were added.

Applicant's Representative thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the September 12, 2003 Personal Interview. As agreed during the Interview, claims 6 and 7 appear to contain allowable subject matter. Applicants believe that claim 8 also falls into the same allowable category. Accordingly, claim 1 was amended to incorporate the allowable elements of claims 2 and 6-8, whereas claims 6-8 were incorporated in Markush format. Claims 3, 5 and 10 were amended for dependency, and claims 14 and 16 were amended for clarity as suggested by the examiner. New claim 20 has the features of original Claim 1, and has added that the second step of predetermined period of time is a period of time 50% to 80% of the progress of the chemical reaction of developing. Support for this element can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 4, line 25 to page 5, line 4. Support for new claim 21 can be found variously throughout the specification, for example, at page 12, lines 9-15, and Figs. 4-5. No prohibited new matter was added. Claims 1, 3-5, 9-16 and 20-21 are currently pending, with claims 1 and 20 being independent.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. JP 63-132429. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, the elements of claims 2 and 6-8 were added to claim 1, mooted this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 5, and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,248,175 to Subramanian et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, the elements of claims 2 and 6-8 were added to claim 1, mooted this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,248,175 to Subramanian et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

However, in order to expedite prosecution, the elements of claims 6-8 were added to claim 1, and claims 6-8 were canceled, mooted this rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Additionally, as agreed during the September 12, 2003 Personal Interview, claims 6-7 contain patentable subject matter. As discussed above, Applicants believe that claim 8 also should be included as allowable.

Claims 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 63-132429A. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Dependent claims 9-12 depend from claim 1, and are also allowable for the reasons above. Moreover, these claims are further distinguished by the materials recited therein, particularly within the claimed combination. Withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections is therefore respectfully solicited.

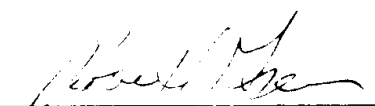
Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, claims 1, 3-5, 9-16 and 20-21 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of these amendments and remarks is courteously solicited. If the examiner has any comments or suggestions that would place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Dated: September 26, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 180013 for any such fees; and applicant(s) hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

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